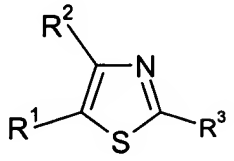
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



I

~~and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, prodrugs and solvates thereof, in which~~

wherein

R^1 and R^2 are independently ~~represent~~ selected from phenyl, thienyl, ~~or~~ and pyridyl, each of which is independently optionally substituted with ~~by~~ one, two or three Z groups ~~represented by Z~~;

Z ~~represents a~~ is selected from a C_{1-6}alkyl group, a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethylthio, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethylsulphonyl, nitro, amino, mono or di C_{1-3}alkylamino, mono or di C_{1-3}alkylamido, C_{1-3}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-3}alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano, carbamoyl, mono or di C_{1-3}alkyl carbamoyl, sulphamoyl, acetyl, ~~or two adjacent carbons may be substituted with the group~~ -O-CH_2-CH_2-O-[[;]] attached at two adjacent carbons, and phenyl, optionally substituted ~~by~~ with one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkyl group, trifluoromethyl, a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy, ~~or~~ halo, or ~~two adjacent carbons may be substituted with the group~~ -O-CH_2-CH_2-O-[[;]] attached at two adjacent carbons; ~~and~~

R^3 ~~represents a group~~ is –X-Y-NR^4R^5; ~~in which~~

R^4 and R^5 are independently ~~represent~~ selected from:

a C_{1-6}alkyl group, optionally substituted ~~by~~ with a C_{1-6}alkoxy group or trifluoromethoxy;

an (amino)C_{1-4}alkyl– group, ~~in which~~ wherein the amino is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups;

a non-aromatic C_{3-15}carbocyclic group, ~~which is~~ optionally substituted ~~by~~ with a C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{1-3}alkyl group;

a (C_{3-12}cycloalkyl)C_{1-3}alkyl– group;

a ~~group~~ $-(CH_2)_r$(phenyl)$_s$ group, wherein ~~in which~~ r is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and wherein s is 1 when r is 0, otherwise s is 1 or 2, and wherein the phenyl groups are optionally independently substituted ~~by~~ with one, two or three Z groups; ~~represented by Z;~~

naphthyl;

anthracenyl;

a saturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group containing one nitrogen and optionally containing one of the following: oxygen, sulphur or an additional nitrogen, wherein the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups or benzyl;

1-adamantylmethyl; and

a ~~group~~ $-(CH_2)_t$Het group, wherein ~~in which~~ t is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and the alkylene chain is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups, and wherein Het ~~represents~~ is an aromatic heterocycle optionally substituted by one, two or three groups selected from a C_{1-6}alkyl group; a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy or halo or Het ~~represents~~ is a saturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group containing one nitrogen and optionally one of the following: oxygen, sulphur or an additional nitrogen; wherein the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups, hydroxy or benzyl;

~~or~~ and wherein R^4 ~~represents~~ may be H ~~and R^5 is as defined above~~;

and wherein ~~or~~ R^4 and R^5 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached ~~represent~~ form a saturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group containing one nitrogen and optionally one of the following: oxygen, sulphur or an additional nitrogen; wherein the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted ~~by~~ with one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups, hydroxy or benzyl;

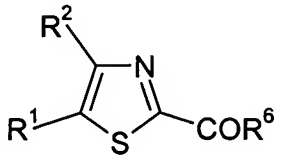
X is CO or SO_2; and

Y is absent or represents NH optionally substituted by a C_{1-3}alkyl group;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof;

with the proviso that R^1 and R^2 ~~do~~ are not both ~~represent~~ 4-methoxyphenyl and the proviso that when R^1 ~~represents~~ is phenyl and R^2 represents phenyl or 4-fluorophenyl, X is CO and Y is absent then the group NR^4R^5 ~~does~~ is not ~~represent~~ methyl-[2-[1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidinyl]ethyl]amino, methylpiperazino, 2-[1-methyl-4-piperidinyl]ethylamino~~;~~, or [2-[1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidinyl]ethyl]amino.

2. (currently amended) A compound of formula I as represented by formula (II)



II

~~and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, prodrugs and solvates thereof, in which~~ wherein

R^1 ~~represents~~ is phenyl, optionally substituted by one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkyl group, trifluoromethyl, a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy, ~~or~~ halo, or ~~two adjacent carbons may be substituted with the group~~ -O-CH_2-CH_2-O- attached at two adjacent carbons;

R^2 ~~represents~~ is phenyl, optionally substituted by one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkyl group, trifluoromethyl, a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy, ~~or~~ halo, or ~~two adjacent carbons may be substituted with the group~~ -O-CH_2-CH_2-O- attached at two adjacent carbons; and

R^6 ~~represents~~ is selected from 1-piperidinylamino, a C_{3-7}cycloalkylamino group, ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by ~~a~~ C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{1-3}alkyl, ~~group,~~ pyridylamino, wherein the pyridyl ring is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkyl group; a C_{1-6}alkoxy group or trifluoromethoxy; ~~or R^6 represents~~ a C_{1-6}alkylamino group, wherein the alkyl chain is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy or morpholino;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof;

with the proviso that when R^1 ~~represents~~ is 4-methoxyphenyl and R^2 is ~~represents~~ 4-methoxyphenyl, then R^6 ~~does~~ is not ~~represent~~ 2-(morpholino)ethyl.

3. (currently amended) A compound selected from ~~one or more of the following~~:

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;

5-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;

5-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;

4-(4-bromophenyl)-5-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;

4-(4-bromophenyl)-5-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;

4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;
4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;
4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;
4,5-bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;
4,5-bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;
5-(7-bromo-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-4-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;
4-(7-bromo-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-5-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;
4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxymethylcyclopentyl)-amide;
4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid pyridin-4-ylamide;
4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid (2-ethoxyethyl)amide; and
4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid (2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)amide
and where applicable, optical isomers, tautomers, stereoisomers and racemates thereof as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

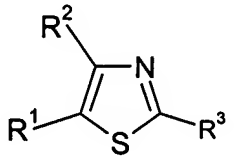
4. (cancelled).

5. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of ~~formula I, as defined in~~ any one of claims 1 to 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

6. (cancelled).

7. (currently amended) A method of treating a condition selected from obesity, psychiatric disorders, ~~such as~~ psychotic disorders, ~~such as~~ schizophrenia and bipolar disorders, anxiety, anxio-depressive disorders, depression, cognitive disorders, memory disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, anorexia, bulimia, attention disorders, ~~like~~ ADHD, epilepsy, and related conditions, neurological disorders, ~~such as~~ dementia, neurological disorders, ~~(e.g.~~ Multiple Sclerosis[[)]], Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's Chorea, ~~and~~ Alzheimer's Disease, immune, cardiovascular, reproductive and endocrine disorders, septic shock, diseases related to the respiratory and gastrointestinal systems, ~~(e.g.~~ diarrhea, ~~), and~~ extended abuse, addiction and/or relapse indications, ~~e.g. treating~~ drug (nicotine, ethanol, cocaine, opiates, ~~etc~~) dependence, and ~~/or treating~~ drug (nicotine, ethanol, cocaine, opiates, ~~etc~~) withdrawal

symptoms in a mammal, comprising administering a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 including the compounds of the proviso in claim 1~~ of formula (I)



I

wherein

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from phenyl, thienyl, and pyridyl, each of which is independently optionally substituted with one, two or three Z groups;

Z is selected from a C_{1-6}alkyl group, a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethylthio, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethylsulphonyl, nitro, amino, mono or di C_{1-3}alkylamino, mono or di C_{1-3}alkylamido, C_{1-3}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-3}alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano, carbamoyl, mono or di C_{1-3}alkyl carbamoyl, sulphamoyl, acetyl, -O-CH_2-CH_2-O- attached at two adjacent carbons, and phenyl, optionally substituted with one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkyl group, trifluoromethyl, a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy, halo, or -O-CH_2-CH_2-O- attached at two adjacent carbons;

R^3 is –X-Y-NR^4R^5;

R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from:

a C_{1-6}alkyl group, optionally substituted with a C_{1-6}alkoxy group or trifluoromethoxy;

an (amino)C_{1-4}alkyl– group, wherein the amino is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups;

a non-aromatic C_{3-15}carbocyclic group, optionally substituted with a C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{1-3}alkyl group;

a (C_{3-12}cycloalkyl)C_{1-3}alkyl– group;

a –$(CH_2)_r$(phenyl)$_s$ group, wherein r is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and wherein s is 1 when r is 0, otherwise s is 1 or 2; and wherein the phenyl groups are optionally independently substituted with one, two or three Z groups;

naphthyl;

anthracenyl;

a saturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group containing one nitrogen and optionally containing one of the following: oxygen, sulphur or an additional nitrogen, wherein the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups or benzyl;

1-adamantylmethyl; and

a $-(CH_2)_t$Het group, wherein t is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and the alkylene chain is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups, and wherein Het is an aromatic heterocycle optionally substituted by one, two or three groups selected from a C_{1-6}alkyl group; a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy or halo or Het is a saturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group containing one nitrogen and optionally one of the following: oxygen, sulphur or an additional nitrogen; wherein the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups, hydroxy or benzyl;

and wherein R^4 may be H;

and wherein R^4 and R^5 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a saturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group containing one nitrogen and optionally one of the following: oxygen, sulphur or an additional nitrogen; wherein the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups, hydroxy or benzyl;

X is CO or SO_2; and

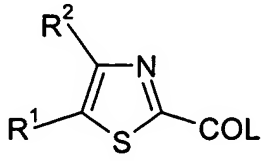
Y is absent or represents NH optionally substituted by a C_{1-3}alkyl group;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

~~to a patient in need thereof.~~

8. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compounds of ~~formula I as claimed in~~ claim 1 in which X is CO

comprising reacting a compound of formula III



III

in which R^1, and R^2 are as previously defined and wherein L ~~represents~~ is hydroxy, alkoxy or halo with an amine of formula IV

$$R^4R^5NYH_2 \qquad IV$$

in which Y, R^4 and R^5 are as previously defined in an inert solvent in the presence of a coupling agent and optionally in the presence of a catalyst at a temperature in the range of -25°C to 150°C.

9. (currently amended) A compound ~~Intermediates~~ of formula II selected from ~~one or more of the following~~:

4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,
5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,
4-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-phenyl-thiazole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,
4,5-Bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,
5-(7-Bromo-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-4-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,
4-(7-Bromo-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-5-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,
5-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-thiazole-2-carboxylic acid,
4-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-thiazole-2-carboxylic acid, and
4,5-Bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid.

10. (currently amended) ~~A compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3 combined with another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of disorders associated with the development and progress of obesity such as~~ The composition according to claim 5, additionally comprising an agent useful for the treatment of hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes, or ~~and~~ atherosclerosis.

11. (new) A method of treating obesity, schizophrenia and bipolar disorders, anxiety, anxio-depressive disorders, depression, cognitive disorders, memory disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, anorexia, bulimia, ADHD, epilepsy, and related conditions, dementia, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's Chorea and Alzheimer's Disease, immune, cardiovascular, reproductive and endocrine disorders, septic shock, diarrhea, drug (nicotine, ethanol, cocaine, opiates) dependence, and drug (nicotine, ethanol, cocaine,

opiates) withdrawal symptoms in a mammal comprising administering a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of either of claims 2 or 3.